

Add. 1999.232

THE COLLECTION
OF CHILLIWACK COUNCIL OF WOMEN
1927 - 1983

INTRODUCTION

The collection relating to the Chilliwack Council of Women dates from 1927 to 1983. The material in the collection was created or collected by the members of the association. They reflect the issues women were interested in during this period of time. It also reveals how women transmitted to government agencies their views on political and economic matters, and their concerns in health, welfare, and education.

The first transfer of the collection was made after 1979, to be followed by a second one in 1983. The collection consists of correspondence, minutes, yearbooks and treasury accounts, and other printed material.

Access to the material is open.

Extent: 5 boxes -- 86 cm.

*For minutes of the Chilliwack Council of Women,
1927-1933, see Add. MSS. 264.*

HISTORY

of the Chilliwack Council of Women.

The Chilliwack Council of Women was formed in 1927 on the initiative of the Provincial Council of Women. The Council of Women was an umbrella organization of members from different clubs and associations in the area. Five organizations made this beginning in 1927 to increase over the years to 42 associated clubs.

During the worst depression years there was a low ebb in activity of the Council to be revived again in 1934, when 7 more clubs joined. A marked increase took place in the 1940s when 11 clubs joined the Council of Women. In the 1950s the strength of the Council increased with 7 new clubs in the association; but in the 1960s only 3 clubs entered the Council of Women. In the 1970s a new increase was marked by 8 new entries.

The main interests of the Chilliwack Council of Women were in health, citizenship, laws, housing and township planning, community affairs, finances, education, economics, international affairs, arts and letters, social welfare, and in later years mass media. The association informed its members in these fields. They also canvassed and set up needed facilities for local purposes.

The association folded in 1982 with the explanation that many goals had been obtained, also, that today professional institutions were pursuing tasks otherwise taken up by the Council of Women. Too many women have drifted into the work force unable to run for office.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The material given to the Chilliwack Museum by the Chilliwack Council of Women spans the time from 1927 - 1982, a period of 55 years. This allows us to have a look at two generations of women in their activities

The correspondence is only starting in 1968, and is somewhat meager on all levels. It consists mainly of answers written to the association in response to their letters. Only a few of the letters written by the Chilliwack Council of Women are preserved. The local letters reveal some interaction among local agencies; the provincial ones are mainly answers to requests, and on one occasion, a reaction to a decision of court. The national correspondence shows the flow of ideas within the structure of Council of Women, and the few leaves on the international level are in regard to a local woman involved with work in an undeveloped country.

The minute books give insights into the detailed proceedings from month to month. They are all dated and allow to pinpoint certain issues during specific times. The bylaws reveal purpose and structure of the association.

The National Yearbooks are the most numerous and coherent material of the collection. They were not produced by the Chilliwack Council of Women, but reading one of them introduces the reader to the locally produced minutes quickly. They also allow a comparison between the two different levels of Council of Women.

Other printed material has a variety of items. Among them take notice of a brief to the Honourable W.A.C. Bennett, former premier of B.C., biographical notes of national executives of The Council of Women during 1968 - 69, a list of federated societies in Chilliwack, a print-out of the Nestle Co., "Nestle and Infant Formula, Facts and Fallacies," and a print-out of the National Council of Churches in New York, "The Case Against Nestle."

Scope and Content continued...

The scrapbooks contain articles from local and provincial newspapers reporting special events connected with Councils of Women.

The display cards of 5 women - Henrietta Muir Edwards, Nellie McClung, Louisa Crummy McKinney, Irene Parlby, Emily Murphy -- reflect the nostalgia and the respect a later generation paid to pioneers.

The financial documents span only the time from 1927 - 1960, because the portion from 1961 - 1982 is not yet deposited with the archive. The amounts of money handled are very small, never passing three digit amounts. The records sometimes tell about the difficulties to collect dues.

The one photograph is from the 21st Conference of the International Council of Women.

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FILE LIST

- Box 1 Local correspondence, May 1968 - October 1982.
File 1 Arranged chronologically, 25 leaves.
Letters from municipal government and township, other associations and clubs. Two thank-you notes. Letters to affiliated clubs. Principal subjects were ~~services~~ given, subsidies for local projects, participation on court committee.
- Box 1 Provincial correspondence, February 1978 - May 1982.
File 1 Arranged chronologically, 34 leaves.
Letters from Provincial Council of Women, different ministries of B.C. government; letter to B.C. court and General Attorney of B.C.
Principal subjects: battered wives, emergency shelters, maintenance for families, bus line in Chilliwack, ownership of provincial resources.
- Box 1 National correspondence, May 1978 - September 1982.
File 3 Arranged chronologically, 33 leaves.
Letters from National Council of Women, the United Church of Canada, the Senate of Canada, other federal agencies, Infact Canada, Nestle Enterprises, MPs.
Principal subjects: Nestle boycott, court jurisdictions, Heritage Week, National Film Board, rape, violence in the home.
- Box 1 International correspondence, February 1972 - October 1978.
File 4 Arranged chronologically, 4 leaves.
Letters from Canadian International Development Agency, and National Council of Women of Kenya. Letters to Canadian International Development Agency, National Council of Women of Kenya.
Principal subjects: help and donation to Kenya.
- Box 1 Chilliwack Council of Women By-Laws.
File 5
- Box 1 Printed Material, 1959 - 1980.
File 6 Arranged chronologically, 14 items.
Main types of material are: List of Federated Societies in Chilliwack; Pamphlets; Chilliwack Council of Women, 1959; Report of Zambian Women, 1974; International Council of Women Planning Agenda; Canadian Churchmen, 1980; Circular of National Council of Women, Infact Canada (Infant Formula Action Coalition); Nestle and Infant Formula, Facts and Fallacies; Article of Business Magazine.
Principal subjects: Nestle boycott, undeveloped countries, Federalism - Provincialism, pensions recreation, resolutions.

FILE LIST continued

Box 1 50th Anniversary Program of the Chilliwack Council of
File 7 Women.

Box 1 Miscellaneous Official Correspondence.
File 8 Brief to Prime Minister - 1968.
 Resolutions - 1968-1969.

Box 1 Records, executive members of the Chilliwack Council of
4 books Women and attendance records.

Box 1 Financial Documents
3 books Cash books.

Box 2 Minute Books, 1934 - 1983.
11 books

Boxes 3 National Council of Women yearbooks, 1931 - 1978. 21
and 4 (incomplete set).
 13 yearbooks

Box 5 ① Scrapbooks, 1927 - 1983.
 Arranged chronologically, 3 books.
 The type of material is newspaper clippings.
 Principal subjects: special events and occasions of
 different Councils of Women.

Box 5 ② Display Material, no dates.
 Arranged alphabetically, 5 cards.
 Types of material are the women of the 19th century. Person's case
 Principal subject: their achievements.

 ③ Certificate, framed. Provincial Carol Lane safety
 award.